

Alaska PEOPLE

Bureau of Land Management

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JULY, 1981

VOL. 2 NO. 9

Move in the Works - Options Are Plentiful

BLM is expanding beyond the Federal Building in search for additional office space. Following the path of NPR-A, the Office of Special Projects and part of Cadastral Survey are preparing to settle in quarters outside the Federal Building to make room for approximately 70 new personnel authorized to help implement ANILCA. These moves are part of an overall space reorganization that is in the "we got a lot of options" stage, according to Al Carlson.

OSP will most likely move into the

second and third floors of the Old Federal Building, near the NPR-A offices, and Cadastral's Branch of Field Survey is charted to move in with the Anchorage District Office. OSP has approximately 40 staff and the Branch of Field Survey lists 35 employees. Al added one other move seems relatively certain, the consolidation of Communications, Appraisal and Engineering in Technical Services to offices on the first floor. The 10 employees in these sections will take over the space behind the reflecting pool

presently occupied by part of OSP and Communications.

The reorganization is aimed at physically finding places for the 70 new staff to be added to Technical Services and to work on conveyances. But the State Office is also implementing changes in line authority to better accommodate BLM decision making. Among these are the creation of the Division of Conveyances which will include the functions of state conveyances as well as those under ANCSA. Judy Albietz will be the Division Chief and Willa May Shore will head up the Branch of State Conveyances. The Division will include approximately 115 employees once it's up to full staffing. Title and Land Status, formerly part of Cadastral Survey has been moved to Technical Services along with Dockets, which was part of Management Services.

Carlson hopes final floor plans will be agreed upon within the next few weeks so all moves can be completed by the end of this fiscal year.



Space Wars

Secretary Watt to Address All Employees

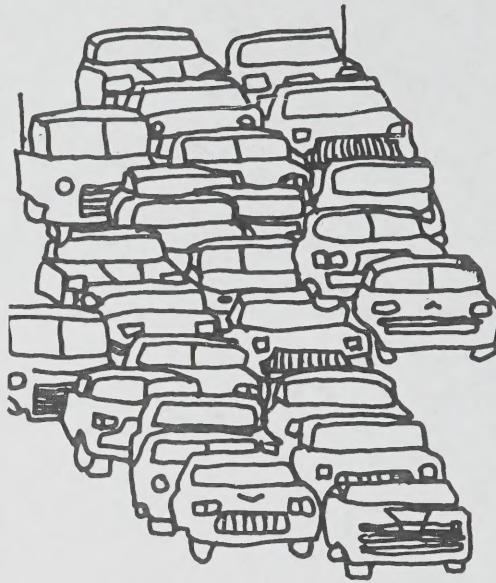
Interior Secretary Watt is scheduled to arrive in Alaska on August 9th for a tour of Denali National Park and other older established National Park Service facilities. An all-employee meeting for BLM staff is scheduled for Tuesday the 11th at the Sidney Lawrence auditorium.

What is Parking's Lot or Something You Auto Know

Those 125 or so BLM staff who paid for parking during the past two years may have a refund coming but — if it comes at all — patience is advised. In mid-June property management asked those who used a space to document total payment but Jim Schiffer emphasized this is only data collection. He does not expect an early resolution to the court dispute which questions whether or not federal employees should pay for parking privileges in federal facilities.

If you paid for a space and have not been notified, contact Jim. He said members of carpools must divide any reimbursement among themselves, adding that BLM cannot turn back more funds than it received for any one spot. The notification letters were sent to the last known home address.

The parking issue arises from a ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the



District of Columbia stating that all Federal employees who paid for Federal parking spaces from November 1, 1979 to March 20, 1981 should receive repayment. The government has appealed the ruling and no refunds will be paid until all appeals have been exhausted. The suit was brought by the American Federation of Government Employees and the National Treasury Employees Union who contend the Carter administration did not receive necessary Congressional approval before instituting the pay parking program.

BLM is assigned 90 spaces in the Anchorage Federal Building parking garage. Approximately 30 spaces are allocated for GSA vehicles, senior staff, handicapped employees and odd-hour employees. The remainder are reserved for carpools, with preference given to the highest number of combined years in federal service and to the highest number in the carpool.

In the Federal Building...

...It's Free

Did you know the First National Bank, with offices on the first floor of the Federal Building, offers free notary service. Two notary publics are on staff. If you need their services call ahead at 265-3581.

...It's True

A call went out to our brethren at Fish and Wildlife Service not long ago to help two injured warblers when they flew into the windows by the Mini-3 working group. James Akaran, a wildlife biologist with FWS, came right over and collected the stunned birds. He took them to a vet where broken wings were mended and FWS reports they have taken flight once again.

...It's a Credit Union

The FedAlaska Federal Credit Union will soon be moving a branch office into the Federal Building, to be located next to First National Bank. Remodeling should be completed in the next few weeks and FedAlaska expects to move in August 1.

...It's Bilbo Baggins

Those curious to see how comfortable a hobbit habitat can be are welcome to take a stroll through Module G, the underground annex. The last of the federal agencies occupying the addition's 62,000 square feet moved in early this month — they are HUD, Social Security, Small Business Administration, Health Services Administration and the Armed Forces Examining Station. Although there are a number of underground office complexes nationwide this is the first for Alaska. Entrance is via the south wall of the parking garage or the sunlight entrance off 8th Street.

...A Word to the Wise

The current exchange rate Canadian to American dollars is \$.80/\$1.00. More Canadian currency is circulating in Anchorage during the summer season and you may have trouble spending it in at least two places in the Federal Building. Chuck's Cache on the first floor does not accept Canadian coins. They lose \$2.00 on each \$10.00 roll when they turn them in. And the vending machines will not do business with currency of the realm.

...It's a New Extension

The Anchorage District Office has a new telephone exchange — the general office number is 267-1200. The Peninsula Area office number is 267-1307; the McGrath Area number is 267-1320; and the Glennallen Area number is 267-1369. All individual inter-office extensions have changed as well. A copy of the new listings is available by calling the general number.

COLA Fight Remains Active

A bulletin from the COLA Defense Steering Committee announces U.S. District Judge von der Heydt has ruled Committee lawyers will be allowed to examine Office of Personnel Management documents and take depositions from OPM. This has been a critical point for those challenging the COLA reduction. Committee lawyers hope enough factual material will be obtained from this effort to warrant a summary judgment in the case — if such a motion were granted it would avoid the need for a trial and speed resolution of the litigation.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Bob Arndorfer officially left his post as Division Chief of Technical Services July 7 but he didn't bid farewell to Alaska until he had a week of fishing near Dillingham. He's reporting in at the Denver Service Center as head of the Office of Technical and Scientific Services, scheduled to begin work July 27.

The State Office is pleased to welcome back **Francis (Fran) Eickbush**. He's now Chief of Cadastral Survey, replacing Irving Zirpel who retired last November. Fran had been Chief of the Branch of Office Engineering here from 1974 through 1976. From Anchorage he went to Wyoming and California before returning for his new duties. Fran brings his wife and three boys with him. They arrived July 4th and are currently apartment hunting while waiting for their house to be built on hillside.

The Office of Special Projects is richer with the addition of **Jerry Bartell**, a geologist on the gasline staff, reporting in June 28 from the Bureau of Reclamation. Also joining OSP are **Ann Harwood** and **Barbara Talley**, System Six operators, and two Student Aides, **Denise Atkins** and **Ethel Maillele**. **Delores Long**, a clerk-typist with OSP left Anchorage July 13 and is now working in the State Director's Office in Colorado.

Jo Antonson-Mohr, historian in the Division of Resources, is leaving BLM July 17 to work with the Alaska Historical Commission. In her new position Jo will administer grants awarded by the Commission for research and publication of Alaska history and work with local historical societies and interested groups.

Two new additions to the Resources navigability team are **Jim Ducker** and **Dwight Tuttle**. Jim comes from the University of Illinois in Urbana where he just completed work for his Ph.D degree. Dwight completed his Ph.D recently at Washington State University in Pullman.

Beth Walton arrived in Anchorage in mid-July from the Craig District Office in Colorado to take over the position of archaeologist in the Division of Resources. The position was vacated last summer by Ray Leicht who moved to the Wyoming State Office.

Muriel (Mike) Goings moved from her position as clerical supervisor in the Division of Resources to a new job with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Elmendorf Air Force Base. **Dee Wittenberg** is acting clerical supervisor in the Division.

Angie Harris recently joined the Division of Resources clerical staff as a student aide. A junior at West High, Angie has lived in Alaska for 8 years. She hopes to continue her education in art or business when she graduates.

The Division of Conveyances also reports a number of staff changes. **Sharon Janis** replaces Rick Elliot and **Mary Jane Sutliff** has been appointed to a new position as Paralegal Specialist. **Sue Wolf** is back for several weeks working on the ANCSA Desk Manual — her base is with the Alaska Program Staff in Washington, D.C. where she is a Reality Specialist. ANILCA allowed for approximately 20 new positions to administer land conveyances to Natives and the state so we'll look for many new faces.



Alaska PEOPLE

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Personal Notes

OVARIAN RHYTHM — **Marianne See**, a botanist in the Division of Resources and **Stephanie Schmidt**, staffing specialist in Personnel, are making musical history with the only jug band and the only woman's band in Alaska. The band's name is The Ovarian Rhythm Section and instruments include guitar, kazoo, washtub, violin, pennywhistle, maracas, spoons, recorders and of course, jugs — in three sizes.

AN ART LOST AND RESTORED — Office of Special Projects Technical Program Manager **Don Keyes** leads a band of a different sort — 60 members committed to old time road cars. He's president of the Antique Auto Musers of Alaska and the club's cars include everything from the Model T to Heavy Chevys. Don also drives with distinction to work — the one with blue flames in space 244.

BLMer TAKES BLMer — Congratulations to **Carlene Welfelt** and **Bob Faithful** on their nuptials in Washington, D.C. over the 4th. And to **Ron Biggs** and **Joan Bennett** on their decision to cut the cake July '9.

BABES HERE AND ON THE WAY — The State Office is in step with Alaska and the nation's birth hike. Births in the last month or so that we've learned of are Matthew to John and **Robin Cacy**, Laura Jean to **Rod** and **Joyce Harvey** and Linea to **Signa Thompson**. Among those expecting are **Karen Hartford** in October, **Lynn O'Brien** in January, and **Rhonda Pruitt** this month.

Alaska's BLM Personnel Earn Their Way

Congratulations to those receiving the following awards. They were presented during the quarter ending June 30, 1981.

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT

QUALITY STEP INCREASES

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT	
NAME	LOCATION
Black, LaVelle	ANCSA
Buchanan, Carl	FDO
Budd, Kathy Ann	Cadastral
Coleman, Becki	ANCSA
DeHoyos, John	Tech. Services

Grier, Donald A.	Cadastral
Hassett, Terry	ANCSA
Johnson, Ann	ANCSA
Mende, Christopher H.	Cadastral
Rae, John A.	ADO
Ramsay, Bruce G.	Cadastral
Silva, Jim	FDO
Smith, Howard Lot	FDO
Waszkiewicz, Ed	Tech. Services

EMPLOYEE	LOCATION
Albietz, Judith	ANCSA
Compton, Carol	ADO
Jenkins, Deborah	FDO
Weiant, Forrest	Cadastral

APPROVED SUGGESTIONS

EMPLOYEE	SUGGESTION
John E. Lowe FDO	Reference material for new Realty Specialists.
Michael Small FDO	Revamping of BLM Form 4210-1.
Gloria Helland Mgmt. Svcs.	Documentation on plats
Jim Whitman ADO	Bus Service

Settlement Program Underway

Secretary Watt reactivated federal settlement programs in June, and has chosen the Minchumina area north of Mt. McKinley for the initial land offering. BLM is looking at approximately 1 million acres in the area and, by December, will identify 10,000 to be opened for homesites, trade and manufacturing sites and headquarter sites.

The public room has brochures describing terms of the three settlement categories with more detailed information packets being developed. *BLM employees should be aware that part 7.1 of 43 CFR prohibits BLM employees from acquiring public lands under these settlement laws.* Those employed for one year or less are not affected.



EAGER BEAVER

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